

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$4 Million for Early Education Programs

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Department of Early Education and Care

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BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration and the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) today announced \$4 million in grant awards for facility improvements at early education and care programs that serve low income children. Four agencies were selected to receive an Early Education and Care and Out of School Time (EEOST) capital improvement grant, which will help increase the quality of their early education programs through critical facility repairs and renovations.

Governor Charlie Baker made the announcement today at the Crispus Attucks Children's Center in Dorchester, the site of one of the facilities funded by the 2018 grant awards.

"With these grants, we will improve the learning environments of our youngest children, boost the capacity of programs to serve more children and create new jobs," **Governor Charlie Baker said.** "Renovating and repairing facilities helps achieve our goal of improving the quality of early education and care."

"These capital improvement grants support facility construction and renovations that modernize early education spaces and provide more enriching environments for children," **Lt. Governor Karyn Polito said.** "High-quality programs help young children develop healthy learning habits, which is good for the community and for our Commonwealth as a whole."

"We know that building deficiencies impact the quality of teaching and learning in early childhood and out-of-school time facilities," **Education Secretary James Peyser said.** "These grants were created to help non-profit providers serving children living in low-income communities improve their facilities."

The Early Education and Care and Out of School Time capital improvement grants are financed through the state's capital budget and provide matching funds that leverage private investment. The Baker-Polito Administration's FY18 Capital Budget Plan included \$4 million for the Early Education and Out of School Time grant program. In May, **[Governor Baker signed An Act Financing the Production and Preservation of Housing for Low and Moderate Income Residents](#)**(</news/governor-baker-signs-18-billion-affordable-housing-bill-to-increase-housing-production>) (**H.4536**(<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/H4536>)), which authorized \$45 million for the EEOST Capital Fund.

"The EEOST capital improvement grants provide critical funding for non-profit early education programs to upgrade their facility spaces and provide better physical environments for the children they serve," **Early Education and Care Commissioner Tom Weber said.** "We are pleased to make these awards as this public investment in building construction and renovation of early education programs will benefit children, local communities, and the state for years to come."

“The EEOST Capital Fund is helping providers create well-designed facilities that support children’s healthy development and learning, and the commitment and effectiveness of educators,” **said Theresa Jordan, Director of Children’s Facilities Finance of Children’s Investment Fund.** “Over time, this innovative capital resource has the potential to transform the early care and education and out-of-school time landscape for the neediest and most vulnerable children in the Commonwealth.”

The following organizations received grants:

Lead Agency	Service Area	Award
Citizens for Citizens	Fall River	\$1,000,000
Crispus Attucks Children’s Center	Dorchester	\$1,000,000
Elizabeth Stone House	Roxbury	\$1,000,000
Holyoke-Chicopee-Springfield Head Start	Springfield	\$1,000,000

“All of us at Crispus Attucks Children’s Center are grateful, excited and humbled to be receiving generous and much-needed funding from the Department of Early Education and Care,” **said Maritza Juliao, Executive Director of Crispus Attucks Children’s Center.** “For nearly fifty years, Crispus Attucks has been providing quality early childhood education at an affordable price to some of Boston’s most vulnerable children and families. Our facilities are in critical need of upgrades and improvements so that we may sustain our mission, and this grant will enable us to give our buildings the attention they need so that we as educators can focus our attention on our dearest assets: the children and families we serve.”

All of the programs selected to receive a grant award serve publicly subsidized families, have demonstrated financial need, and have secured additional funding to pay for a

portion of their project costs. The Department of Early Education and Care partnered with CEDAC's affiliate, the Children's Investment Fund, to administer the grant awards. All of the grantees are non-profit corporations or organizations in which a non-profit corporation has a controlling interest.

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**Department of Early Education and
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